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MOTION TO FILE

LATE

Exhibit

Illinois Commerce Commission RAIL SAFETY SECTION

Ref.: Docket # TO1 - 0028

To:

Nick Korte

Illinois Commerce Commission

From: Russell Metzger and Verna Lehn Roberts

Subject: Proposed R.R. Crossing Closure at [milepost # 93.23 D.O.T. # 069158G

Motion:

We come upon this action to request the enclosed petition and letters be admitted into the record of the May 31, 2001 hearing, Docket # TOL-0028, to be entered as Late filed Exhibits.

Sincerely,

Russ Metzger

Russ Me

Verna Lehn Roberts

Verna Lehn Roberts

**/8x

Senator Frank Watson:

and all parties on service list of Droket # Tol-0028

Dear Frank.

I have owned and operated Hookdale Elevator Inc., a grain elevator, Ag fertilizer and Ag chemical business, for the last 24 years in rhe Village of Hookdale. For the past 10 years I have attempted to have lights installed at the railroad crossing in Hookdale just east of the elevator office. The railroad is the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. No accidents have occurred at this crossing of any of the four crossings within a one mile distance from Hookdale, hut then have been some close calls at the crossing in Hookdale. The Railroad and ICC are proposing the closing of two of these four crossings in the close proximity of Hookdale. One is at milepost 98.59 D.O.T. #069318T and one at milepost 98.23 D.O.T. #069158G. The general consensus of the community accepts the closing of crossing #98.59, but the closing of crossing #98.23 just north of Hookdale is unanimously opposed.

In order to close #98,23 a new road would need to be constructed and maintained through the farmland owned by Verna Roberts of Greenville II. She strongly opposes cutting a road through her farm. The proposed new read, which has been called the High Street extension to 6th Avenue, would divert all traffic from north of Hookdale, through the middle of town, and past the grain elevator, which would create a safety problem at the elevator with the added traffic of vehicles and farm machinery adding to the congestion and safety of the traffic in town.

t know the seasonal traffic patterns in and around Hookdale and when the farmers are planting and harvesting I have the most traffic at the elevator, if crossing #98.23 were closed, the traffic congestion would increase and safety would be jeopardized.

At the public hearing on May 3 t. 2001, the Railroad testified that the cost of building the new road, the high street extension to 6th avc, would be approximately \$107,000.00 plus approximately \$20,000.00 to acquire the land from Verna Roberts. The Railroad and ICC also testified that the cost of putting lights and gates at crossing #98.23 would be approximately \$148,000.00. So for about \$27,000.00 more, the crossing could be left open and everyone in the community would be happy.

A petition was circulated, of which a copy is enclosed, showing 262 signatures, including every Registered Voter of Bond County within a two mile radius of the crossing in question. All these people are opposed to the closing of crossing #98.23.

My understanding is that the lights alone installed at this crossing would cost less than \$50,000.00. This would be adequate.

In February, 2000, I sold Hookdale Elevator Inc to South Central FS of 1800 Hillsboro Rd, Vandalia, Illinois, 62471. I have been hired to continue to manage the business located in Hookdale and am very concerned for the safety of my neighbors and friends who are now customers of South Central FS.

Sincerely,

Russell Metzoel

DATE

Senator Frank Watson:

and all parties on Service list of Docket # DATE

Dear Frank,

Tol-0028

I, Verna Roberts, am 92 years old and have been a lifelong resident of Hookdale until a few years ago when I moved to Greenville. My Grandfather, I ouis Lehn, donated the land for the town of Hookdale in 1883. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad wants to build a road through my farm in order to close a railroad crossing at milepost 98.23 just north of Hookdale.

1 don't want my farm cut up by an unnecessary road. I strongly object to the closing of the crossing 5598.23 just north of Hookdale. This action would lessen the value of my farm and I know the issue of safety at the crossing has been advocated. Every vehicle wishing to cross at milepost #98.23 would be detoured through my farm, through the middle of Hookdale. Therefore there will be no more or no less traffic crossing the tracks if this crossing is closed. This means safety is not the issue, but there would be more traffic in town, creating a traffic safety problem at the elevator instead of at the crossing at #98.23.

Please do not close the crossing at milepost #98.23 on 6th avenue. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Usma Litin Roberts

Verna Lehn Roberts

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June 4, 2001 Copies

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